



#11/Response
11.7.02
C. Moore
PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 018865-003600US
Client Ref. No.: 17732-9953

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Sharp et al.

Application No.: 09/448,884

Filed: November 24, 1999

For: HYDROGEN ANNEAL FOR
CREATING AN ENHANCED TRENCH
FOR TRENCH MOSFETS

Examiner: D. Vu

Art Unit: 2818

RESPONSE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 24, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 24, 2002, for which a request for a three-month extension of time to reply is enclosed, Applicants submit the enclosed §131 Declaration and provide the following remarks:

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 15-18 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Lim et al. (USPN 6,228,727). Claims 19-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu et al. (USPN 5,943,581) in view of Lim et al.

An important aspect of the present invention, which is included in the independent claims 1, 6, 9, and 19, is the step of annealing the trench so that trench corners at the open and closed ends of the trench become rounded. The Examiner rejects independent claims 1, 6, 9, and 19 on the basis of Lim et al. alone or in combination with Lu et al., indicating that this step is shown by Lim et al. As the enclosed §131 Declaration demonstrates, the above-mentioned aspect of the invention, namely, the step of annealing the trench so that trench corners at the open and closed ends of the trench